

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year! I am very excited for another wonderful year in first grade and look forward to watching your remarkable children grow. This letter is to introduce our class website, as well as bring a few things to your attention before we begin school.

Class Website:

You can view our class website at <http://laravruwink.weebly.com>. You can also scan the QR code to the right. If you visit our Google site, there will be a link to redirect you to my Weebly site. A link to our website is also at the base of my emails. The website tells more about me and it is a great communication tool.



Transportation:

Thank you for providing me with transportation information at Meet the Teacher. If there are any changes during the school year, please be sure to send a handwritten note in our communication/daily folder **and** call the school letting us know of any changes in transportation. If you forgot to complete our Google Form at Meet the Teacher, please use the QR code.



Supplies:

Thank you for providing supplies on Thursday. **One additional item is over the ear headphones.** Please have those in within the next few weeks. We will keep them at school and return them at the end of the school year.

Snack and Lunch:

We will have a snack every morning around 9:30 and we have a later lunch at 12:15. Your child should bring a snack everyday. We recommend healthy snacks such as fruit, pretzels, carrots, cheese & crackers, etc. **Please provide nut-free snacks.** I have extra snacks for those that need a replacement snack or if a snack is forgotten. Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle. Water bottles can be kept at their desk, as long as it has a secure lid to avoid spills. Please remind them to carry their water bottle separate or keep it upright on the side of their book bag to avoid additional spills inside their book bags or lunch boxes. Thanks for your help! Please make sure all belongings are labeled.

Attendance:

The bell rings at 7:15 and the tardy bell is at 7:45. It is important that your child is on time each day (dropped off no later than 7:40). Having your child at school before 7:30 would allow them time to successfully begin their day with our morning routines in our classroom. Dismissal is at 2:45. For car riders, please see the Carpool Information in the blue folder. If you plan to pick up your child for early dismissal, we ask that you pick them up before 2:00. If early dismissal, please let me know, so I can have them ready. Please note specials are from 10:30-11:10, recess is 11:45 – 12:15, and lunch is 12:15-12:30. This will be helpful if you make appointments during the day and early dismissals.

Beginning of Year Forms:

You will find information from our PTA and how to fill out forms online. I've also added QR codes for PTA forms & CMS forms. Forms can be returned in the blue folder on the 1st day. Paper copies are in the blue folder (so no need to use QR code for CMS forms.. If you have concerns about the photo release, please let me know. I take several photos throughout the year and enjoy sharing them on our Class Dojo story. You will also see their lunch number in their folder and money can be added to their online account (see PayPams below).

PTA Back to School	PTA Volunteer	CMS Volunteer Registration
		

Volunteering:

It is a CMS requirement that you register before volunteering. Use the QR code to the right to register with CMS (different from PTA volunteer). Please re-register this year, so it is up-to-date. I will keep you up to date on volunteer opportunities this year.

Homework:

After a few weeks, we will begin sending reading homework with a reading log to track their daily reading and provide discussion questions after reading.

Behavior:

In our class, I expect children to follow the rules everyday and we are rewarded for our individual behavior, as well as our whole class behavior. I use Class Dojo and information is included in the blue folder on how to access it. Your child can use their Dojo points to "cash" in or save up for more extravagant awards. Any negative behavior will be noted on their Class Dojo account or through messaging. The free app allows for notifications too (please mark allow on settings), so you'll always be up to date with their behavior, receive messages from me (similar to texting), and see pictures on our Class Story throughout the year. I encourage you to regularly check Class Dojo to stay up-to-date with their behavior. We also receive class rewards with our warm fuzzy jar for a class surprise! Your child may also talk about Eagle Tickets used by all school staff for catching students with good behavior. Tickets can be used for the school raffle OR trade in for more Dojo Points OR a little bit of both!

Clothing:

Our class will be active each day. Sandals and flip flops can be difficult when the children are involved in physical activities, especially outside in the mulch, and it is recommended that your child not wear them to school. This is especially important for P.E. days, which will be on Wednesday.

Please label your child's jackets, backpacks, lunchboxes, and water bottles to avoid confusion. It is helpful if you provide a spare set of clothes (bathroom accident, spilled lunch/snack, or fall in mud at recess). It can be left at school in their cubby. Please send a winter set once that time comes.

Money:

Please send all money in a sealed envelope labeled with your child's name, the amount, and its purpose. To make payments online to their lunch account, you can visit PayPams at <https://www.paypams.com/>.



Birthdays:

We are happy to celebrate birthdays if you would like to provide a treat on (or near) your child's special day. Please contact me before sending or bringing in a birthday treat so we can plan for it accordingly. Birthdays are celebrated in the cafeteria at the end of lunch and all treats **must be store bought**. Please bring enough for each child, as we have 17 students at this time. We will celebrate all summer birthdays toward the end of the school year. Sending the same treat for each child is very helpful! Please avoid sending party invitations to be distributed in class, since this may hurt feelings for those not invited. Thank you for understanding. If you do not have a Selwyn directory for birthday invitations, please contact me and I can help you.

I am looking forward to this school year and I know your child will be very happy as a part of our class!

Sincerely,

Lara Vruwink (a.k.a. Ms. V)